

8 November 1991

Title: "Representative Leach Calls for Resurrecting ANZUS."

Remarks by Representative Leach concerning South Pacific region security arrangements. (911008)

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(Text: Leach in Congressional Record) (810)

Washington — Recent shifts in the landscape of international politics, especially the conclusion of the Cold War and President Bush's decision to eliminate an entire category of nuclear arms, have made a "resurrection" of normal U.S.-**New Zealand ties** and the ANZUS alliance possible, according to Representative Jim Leach (Republican of Iowa), the ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs.

"After all," Leach said on the House floor October 3, "with the removal of our currently deployed tactical nuclear systems at sea — those on submarines and on surface ships — there should be no basis for objecting to United States maintenance of our historic policy of NCND (neither confirm nor deny) particularly when it is so unlikely the United States would ever want to embarrass **New Zealand's** sensibilities and sensitivities."

Following is the text of Leach's remarks, as it appeared in the October 3 Congressional Record:

(begin text)

Congressional Record dated Thursday, October 3, 1991

Attributed to LEACH, JAMES (R-IA) RESURRECTING ANZUS

Mr. LEACH. Madam Speaker, perspective is always difficult to apply in a world turned topsy, but the president's historically significant arms restraint initiative last Friday would appear to have signal ramifications for relations with one of our oldest and closest allies: **New Zealand**.

As Members well recall, early in the last decade the Labor Government under Prime Minister David Lange moved to jeopardize the integrity of the ANZUS alliance by enacting strict antinuclear legislation which had the effect of prohibiting ship visits by the U.S. Navy. The background of Lange's unfortunate intransigence on the issue sprang in part from **New Zealand**, indeed the world, doubts about the sincerity and capacity of President Reagan in his first years in office to advance arms control.

GE 2 PXF201 Under the steady and adroit statecraft of President Bush, however, American leadership not only appears firmer but manifestly more progressive on arms control subjects of concern to **New Zealand**.

In addition, President Bush has made clear that despite our differences with the Government of **New Zealand** over the long-standing policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons on our ships and aircraft, known as NCND, it is important for our two great countries, which share such an overwhelming coincidence of interests, to maintain the most civil of relations. Hence Secretary Derwinski recently visited **New Zealand** and President Bush met personally with Prime Minister Bolger last week in New York.

From a congressional perspective, it would appear that today there is every opportunity to break the unfortunate deadlock on NCND. Based not only upon civil discourse but prodigious shifts in the landscape of international politics, most especially the peaceful conclusion of a bitter Cold War whose end was facilitated in no small measure by an effective alliance structure, as well as the president's decision to eliminate an entire category of nuclear arms including the removal of tactical nuclear weapons from naval vessels, it would appear that resurrection of normal United States-**New Zealand ties** is eminently reasonable and that reinauguration of the ANZUS alliance is imminently at hand.

The historically unprecedented arms restraint initiatives announced last week have given hope to those of us who've worked to see the United States-**New Zealand** relationship recemented that Wellington could respond by indicating that U.S. Navy ship visits are no longer so intolerable to the Government or public. After all, with the removal of our currently deployed tactical nuclear systems at sea — those on submarines and on surface ships — there should be no basis for objecting to United States maintenance of our historic policy of NCND particularly when it is so unlikely the United States would ever want to embarrass **New Zealand's** sensibilities and sensitivities.

If the past can be considered prologue, what truly matters in our relationship is not nearly so much this honest family spat, but the **ties** that **bind** us together: Our common heritage rooted in our Anglo-Saxon institutions and frontier immigrant traditions and our allied status in every principal engagement of the century. The blood spilled so many times together in the name of freedom is simply a more important bond than any disagreement emanating from politics of the moment. As we celebrate the prospective end of the Cold War, now is the time in **New Zealand**-United States relations to emphasize our shared heritage, our mutual responsibilities, and our common view of the future. Now is the time to normalize relations, to

GE 3 PXF201 underscore our mutual confidence and respect by reinvigorating the ANZUS alliance.

In a new world order, the United States, with the counsel of our allies has made policy shifts of historical dimension. The challenge in **New Zealand**-United States relations is to see that this unique opportunity for reconciliation is not lost.

(end text) NNNN